

# INF

The same distemper of the air that occasioned the plague, occasioned also the *infirmiti* or noxiousness of the soil, whereby the fruits of the earth became either very small, or very unwholesome. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

**TO INFEST.** *v. a.* [*infest*, Fr. *infeste*, Latin.] To harass; to disturb; to plague. *Hooker.*

They ceased not, in the mean while, to strengthen that part which in heart they favoured, and to *infest* by all means, under colour of other quarrels, their greatest adversaries in this cause. *Hooker.*

Although they were a people *infested*, and mightily hated of all others, yet was there nothing of force to work the ruin of their state, till the time beforementioned was expired. *Hook.*

Unto my feeble breast  
Come gently; but not with that mighty rage  
Wherewith the martial troops thou dost *infest*,  
And hearts of greatest heroes dost enrage. *Spenser.*

They were no mean, distressed, calamitous persons that fled to him for refuge; but of so great quality, as it was apparent that they came not thither to protect their own fortune, but to *infest* and invade his. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

These, said the genius, are envy, avarice, superstition, love, with the like cares and passions that *infest* human life. *Addison's Spectator.*

No disease *infests* mankind more terrible in its symptoms and effects. *Arbutnot on Diet.*

**INFESTIVITY.** *n. f.* [*in* and *festivity*.] Mournfulness; want of cheerfulness.

**INFESTED.** *adj.* [*in* and *fest*.] Ranking; inveterate. This cursed creature, mindful of that old *Infested* grudge, the which his mother felt, So soon as Clarion he did behold, His heart with vengeful malice inly swelt. *Spenser.*

**INFESTATION.** *n. f.* [*in* and *festum*, Lat.] The act of putting one in possession of a fee or estate.

Another military provision was conventional and by tenure, upon the *infestation* of the tenant, and was usually called knight's service. *Hale's Common Law of England.*

**INFIDEL.** *n. f.* [*infidelle*, Fr. *infidèle*, Latin.] An unbeliever; a little creature; a pagan; one who rejects Christianity.

Exhorting her, if she did marry, yet not to join herself to an *infidel*, as in those times some widows christian had done, for the advancement of their estate in this world. *Hooker.*

**INFIDELITY.** *n. f.* [*infidelité*, French; *infidelitas*, Lat.]

1. Want of faith.

The consideration of the divine omnipotence and infinite wisdom, and our own ignorance, are great instruments of silencing the murmurs of *infidelity*. *Taylor's Rule of Living holy.*

2. Disbelief of Christianity.

One would fancy that infidels would be exempt from that single fault, which seems to grow out of the imprudent servours of religion; but to it is, that *infidelity* is propagated with as much fierceness and contention, as if the safety of mankind depended upon it. *Addison's Spectator.*

3. Treachery; deceit.

The *infidelities* on the one part between the two sexes, and the caprices on the other, the vanities and vexations attending even the most refined delights that make up this business of life, render it silly and uncomfortable. *Spectator.*

**INFINITE.** *adj.* [*infini*, French; *infinitus*, Latin.]

1. Unbounded; boundless; unlimited; immense; having no boundaries or limits to its nature.

Impossible it is, that God should withdraw his presence from any thing, because the very substance of God is *infinite*. *Hooker.*

What's time, when on eternity we think?  
A thousand ages in that sea must sink:  
Time's nothing but a word; a million  
Is full as far from *infinite* as one. *Denham.*

Thou sov'reign pow'r, whose secret will controuls  
The inward bent and motion of our souls!  
Why hast thou plac'd such *infinite* degrees  
Between the cause and cure of my disease? *Prior.*

When we would think of *infinite* space or duration, we at first make some very large idea; as perhaps of millions of ages or miles, which possibly we multiply several times. *Locke.*

Even an angel's comprehensive thought  
Cannot extend as far as thou hast wrought:  
Our vast conceptions are by swelling brought,  
Swallow'd and lost in *infinite*, to nought. *Dennis.*

2. It is hyperbolically used for large; great.

**INFINITELY.** *adv.* [*infinite*.] Without limits; without bounds; immensely.

Nothing may be *infinitely* desired, but that good which indeed is infinite. *Hooker.*

This is Antonio,  
To whom I am *infinitely* bound. *Shakesp. Merch. of Ven.*

The king saw that contrariwise it would follow, that England, though much less in territory, yet should have *infinitely* more soldiers of their native forces than those other nations have. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

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*Infinitely* the greater part of mankind have professed to act under a full persuasion of this great article. *Rogers.*

**INFINITENESS.** *n. f.* [*from infinite*.] Immenity; boundlessness; infinity.

The cunning of his flattery, the readiness of his tears, the *infiniteness* of his vows, were but among the weakest threads of his net. *Sidney.*

Let us always bear about us such impressions of reverence, and fear of God, that we may humble ourselves before his Almightiness, and express that infinite distance between his *infiniteness* and our weaknesses. *Taylor.*

**INFINITESIMAL.** *adj.* [*from infinite*.] Infinitely divided.

**INFINITIVE.** *adj.* [*infinitif*, Fr. *infinitives*, Latin.] In grammar, the *infinitive* affirms, or intimates the intention of affirming, which is one use of the indicative; but then it does not do it absolutely. *Clarke's Lat. Gram.*

**INFINITUDE.** *n. f.* [*from infinite*.]

1. Infinity; immensity.

Confusion heard his voice, and wild uproar  
Stood rull'd, stood vast *infinitude* confin'd. *Milt. Par. Lost.*

Though the repugnancy of *infinitude* be equally incompatible to continued or successive motion, or continued quantity, and depends upon the impossibility of the very nature of things successive or extensive with *infinitude*; yet that impossibility is more conspicuous in discrete quantity, that ariseth from parts actually distinguished. *Hale.*

2. Boundless number.

We see all the good sense of the age cut out, and minced into almost an *infinitude* of distinctions. *Addison's Spectator.*

**INFINITY.** *n. f.* [*infinitif*, Fr. *infinitus*, Latin.]

1. Immenity; boundlessness; unlimited qualities.

There cannot be more *infinities* than one; for one of them would limit the other. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*

The better, the more desirable; that therefore must be desirable, wherein there is *infinity* of goodness; so that if any thing desirable may be infinite, that must needs be the highest of all things that are desired: no good is infinite but only God, therefore he our felicity and bliss. *Hooker.*

2. Endless number. An hyperbolical use of the word.

Homer has concealed faults under an *infinity* of admirable beauties. *Brown's Notes on the Odyssey.*

The liver, being swelled, compresseth the stomach, stops the circulation of the juices, and produceth an *infinity* of bad symptoms. *Arbutnot on Diet.*

**INFIRM.** *adj.* [*infirm*, French; *infirmus*, Latin.]

1. Weak; feeble; disabled of body.

Here stand I your brave;  
A poor, *infirm*, weak, and despis'd old man. *Shakesp.*

That on my head all might be visited,  
Thy frailty, and *infirm* sex, forgiv'n;  
To me committed, and by me expos'd. *Milt. Par. Lost.*

2. Weak of mind; irresolute.

I'll go no more;  
I am afraid to think what I have done:  
Look out again, I dare not. *Shakesp. Macbeth.*

3. Not stable; not solid.

He who fixes upon false principles, treads upon *infirm* ground, and so sinks; and he, who fails in his deductions from right principles, stumbles upon firm ground, and falls. *South.*

**TO INFIRM.** *v. a.* [*infirm*, Fr. *infirm*, Lat.] To weaken; to shake; to enfeeble. Not in use.

Some contrary spirits will object this as a sufficient reason to *infirm* all those points. *Raleigh's Essays.*

The spleen is unjustly introduced to invigorate the sunnier side, which, being dilated, would rather *infirm* and debilitate it. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**INFIRMARY.** *n. f.* [*infirmaria*, French.] Lodgings for the sick.

These buildings to be for privy lodgings on both sides, and the end for privy galleries, whereof one should be for an *infirm*, if any special person should be sick. *Bacon.*

**INFIRMITY.** *n. f.* [*infirmity*, French.]

1. Weakness of sex, age, or temper.

*Infirmity.*

Which waits upon worn times, hath something seiz'd  
His with'd ability. *Shakesp. Winter's Tale.*

Discover thine *infirmity*,  
That warranteth by law to be thy privilege:  
I am with child, ye bloody homicides. *Shakesp. Henry VI.*

If he had done or said any thing amiss, he desired their worthips to think it was his *infirmities*. *Shak. Julius Cæs.*

Are the *infirmities* of the body, pains, and diseases his complaints? His faith reminds him of the day when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal immortality. *Rogers.*

2. Failing; weakness; fault.

A friend should bear a friend's *infirmities*;  
But Brutus makes mine greater than they are. *Shakesp. Cæs.*

Many *infirmities* made it appear more requisite, that a wiser man should have the application of his interest. *Clarck.*

3. Disease;

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How difficult is it to preserve a great name, when he that has acquired it, is so obnoxious to such little weaknesses and *infirmities*, as are no small diminution to it, when discovered. *Addison's Spectator.*

3. Disease; malady.

General laws are like general rules of physick, according whereunto, as now, no wife man will desire himself to be cured, if there be joined with his disease some special accident, in regard that thereby others in the same *infirmity*, but without the like accident, may. *Hooker.*

**INFIRMNESS.** *n. f.* [*from infirm*.] Weakness; feebleness.

Some experiments may discover the *infirmness* and insufficiency of the peripatetic doctrine. *Boyle.*

**TO INFIX.** *v. a.* [*infixus*, Latin.] To drive in; to fasten.

And at the point two stings *infix'd* are,  
Both deadly sharp, that sharpest steel exceeden far. *Fa. 2u.*

I never lov'd myself,  
Till now, *infix'd*, I behold myself,  
Drawn in the flatter'd table of her eye. *Shakesp. K. John.*

Immoveable, *infix'd*, and frozen round. *Milton.*

That sting *infix'd* within her haughty mind,  
And her proud heart with secret sorrow pin'd. *Dryden.*

Arcite on Emily had fix'd his look:  
The fatal dart a ready passage found,  
And deep within her heart *infix'd* the wound. *Dryden.*

**TO INFLAME.** *v. a.* [*inflamm*, Latin.]

1. To kindle; to set on fire.

Love more clear than yourselves, dedicated to a love, I fear, more cold than yourselves, with the clearness lays a night of sorrow upon me, and with the coldness *inflames* a world of fire within me. *Sidney.*

2. To kindle desire.

Their lust was *inflamed* towards her.  
More *inflam'd* with lust than rage. *Milton.*

3. To exaggerate; to aggravate.

A friend exaggerates a man's virtues, an enemy *inflames* his crimes. *Addison's Spectator.*

4. To heat the body morbidly with obstructed matter.

5. To provoke; to irritate.

A little vain curiosity weighs so much with us, or the church's peace so little, that we sacrifice the one to the whetting and *inflaming* of the other. *Decay of Piety.*

6. To fire with passion.

Satan, with thoughts *inflam'd* of highest design,  
Puts on swift wings. *Milton.*

**TO INFLAME.** *v. n.* To grow hot, angry, and painful by obstructed matter.

If the vesiculae are oppress'd, they *inflame*. *Wifeman.*

**INFLAMMER.** *n. f.* [*from inflame*.] The thing or person that inflames.

Interest is a great *inflamer*, and sets a man on persecution under the colour of zeal. *Addison's Spectator.*

Assemblies, who act upon publick principles, proceed upon influence from particular leaders and *inflammers*. *Swift.*

**INFLAMMABILITY.** *n. f.* [*from inflammable*.] The quality of catching fire.

This it will do, if the ambient air be impregnate with subtle *inflammabilities*. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

Choler is the lightest and most *inflammable* part of the blood; whence, from its *inflammability*, it is called a sulphur. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

**INFLAMMABLE.** *adj.* [*French*.] Easy to be set on flame; having the quality of flaming.

The juices of olives, almonds, nuts, and pine-apples, are all *inflammable*. *Bacon's Natural History.*

Licetus thinks it possible to extract an *inflammable* oil from the stone aësthus. *Wilkins's Math. Magic.*

Out of water grow all vegetable and animal substances, which consist as well of sulphureous, fat, and *inflammable* parts as of earthy and alcalizate ones. *Newton's Opt.*

*Inflammable* spirits are subtle volatile liquors, which come over in distillation, miscible with water, and wholly combustible. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

**INFLAMMABLENESS.** *n. f.* [*from inflammable*.] The quality of easily catching fire.

We may treat of the *inflammableness* of bodies. *Boyle.*

**INFLAMMATION.** *n. f.* [*inflammatio*, Latin; *inflammation*, French.]

1. The act of setting on flame.

2. The state of being in flame.

The flame extendeth not beyond the *inflammable* effluence, but closely adheres unto the original of its *inflammation*. *Bro.*

Some urns have had inscriptions on them, expressing that the lamps within them were burning when they were first buried; whereas the *inflammation* of fat and viscous vapours doth presently vanish. *Wilkins's Dead.*

3. [*In chirurgery*.] *Inflammation* is when the blood is obstructed so as to crowd in a greater quantity into any particular part, and gives it a greater colour and heat than usual. *Quincy.*

If that bright spot stay in his place, it is an *inflammation* of the burning. *Levi xiii. 28.*

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4. The act of exciting fervour of mind.

Prayer kindleth our desire to behold God by speculation; and the mind, delighted with that contemplative sight of God, taketh every where new *inflammations* to pray the riches of the mysteries of heavenly wisdom, continually stirring up in us correspondent desires towards them. *Hooker.*

**INFLAMMATORY.** *adj.* [*from inflame*.] Having the power of inflaming.

The extremity of pain often creates a coldness in the extremities: such a sensation is very consistent with an *inflammatory* distemper. *Arbutnot on Diet.*

An *inflammatory* fever hurried him out of this life in three days. *Pope to Swift.*

**TO INFLATE.** *v. a.* [*inflatus*, Latin.]

1. To swell with wind.

That the muscles are *inflated* in time of rest, appears to the very eye in the faces of children. *Ray.*

2. To fill with the breath.

Vapours are no other than *inflated* vesiculæ of water. *Derb.*

With might and main they chas'd the murd'rous fox,  
With brazen trumpets and *inflated* box,  
To kindle Mars with military sounds,  
Nor wanted horns to inspire sagacious hounds. *Dryden.*

**INFLATION.** *n. f.* [*inflatio*, Lat. from *inflate*.] The state of being swelled with wind; flatulence.

Wind coming upwards, *inflations* and tumours of the belly are signs of a phlegmatick constitution. *Arbutnot on Diet.*

**TO INFLECT.** *v. a.* [*inflecto*, Latin.]

1. To bend; to turn.

What makes them this one way their race direct,  
While they a thousand other ways reject? *Blackm.*

2. To change or vary.

3. To vary a noun or verb in its terminations.

**INFLECTION.** *n. f.* [*inflectio*, Latin.]

1. The act of bending or turning.

Neither the divine determinations, persuasions, or *inflections* of the understanding or will of rational creatures, doth deceive the understanding, pervert the will, or necessitate either to any moral evil. *Hale.*

2. Modulation of the voice.

His virtue, his gesture, his countenance, his zeal, the motion of his body, and the *inflection* of his voice, who first uttereth them as his own, is that which giveth the very essence of instruments available to eternal life. *Hooker.*

3. Variation of a noun or verb.

The same word in the original tongue, by divers *inflections* and variations, makes divers dialects. *Brevetud.*

**INFLECTIVE.** *adj.* [*from inflect*.] Having the power of bending.

This *inflective* quality of the air is a great incumbrance and confusion of astronomical observations. *Derham.*

**INFLEXIBILITY.** *n. f.* [*inflexibilitas*, French, from *inflexible*.]

**INFLEXIBLENESS.** *n. f.* [*from inflexible*.]

1. Stiffness; quality of resisting flexure.

2. Obstinacy; temper not to be bent; inexorable pertinacity.

**INFLEXIBLE.** *adj.* [*French*; *inflexibilis*, Latin.]

1. Not to be bent or incurvated.

Such errors as are but acorns in our younger brows, grow oaks in our older heads, and become *inflexible* to the powerful arm of reason. *Brown's Preface to Vul. Err.*

2. Not to be prevailed on; immovable.

The man resolv'd and steady to his trust,  
*Inflexible* to ill, and obstinately just. *Addison.*

3. Not to be changed or altered.

The nature of things are *inflexible*, and their natural relations unalterable: we must bring our understandings to things, and not bend things to our fancies. *Watts.*

**INFLEXIBLY.** *adv.* [*from inflexible*.] Inexorably; invariably; without relaxation or remission.

It should be begun early, and *inflexibly* kept to, till there appears not the least reluctance. *Locke.*

**TO INFLECT.** *v. a.* [*infigo*, *inflectus*, Latin; *infiger*, Fr.]

To put in act or impose as a punishment.

I know no pain, they can *inflict* upon him,  
Will make him say I mov'd him to those arms. *Shakesp.*

Sufficient is this punishment which was *inflicted*. *2 Cor. ii.*

What the potent victor in his rage  
Can else *inflict*. *Milton.*

What heart could wish, what hand *inflict* this dire disgrace?  
By diseases we condemn ourselves to greater torments than have been yet invented by anger or revenge, or *inflicted* by the greatest tyrants upon the worst of men. *Temple.*

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